Please add the following claims:

19. (New) Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said nozzle is located outside said scrap receiver on the upper part of said scrap receiver.

20. (New) Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said stream of fluid is directed against said knife roll.

21. (New) Apparatus for preventing a trim strip from adhering to a knife roll of a slitter after trimming and during transfer to a scrap receiver, comprising a nozzle that produces a fluid stream in a direction generally opposite to the direction of movement of the unadhered trim strip.

RESPONSE

Claims 1-18 were originally filed with this application. In response to the Office Action, applicant has amended independent claim 10 and has added dependent claims 19 and 20, and independent claim 21. The amendments to claim 10 are intended to clarify the terminology used and are not intended to narrow the scope of the claim. The new claims add no new matter. Claims 1-9 and 14-18 have been withdrawn without prejudice pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 10-13 and 19-21 are now pending in this application.

In consideration of the amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of claims 10-13, and consideration of new claims 19-21 are respectfully requested.

Claim rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Patent Office rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Crouse (U.S. Pat. No. 4,231,272). Specifically, the Office Action states that Crouse discloses a trimming apparatus comprising all the elements of applicant's apparatus, including a scrap receiver and nozzle. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The apparatus described in Crouse differs from the current apparatus in several respects. Applicant directs a stream of fluid (air) into the area where the scrap strip leaves the knife roll. Crouse does not direct a fluid into this area but uses table 19 to support and guide the scrap strip

from the point where it is severed from the web at the knife roll until it enters the scrap receiver. The use of table 19 to guide the scrap strip limits Crouse to applications where the scrap strip is trimmed from the edge of a web and table 19 can be aligned alongside the knife roll to support and guide the scrap strip. In contrast, the apparatus of the present invention can also be used to direct a scrap strip cut from the middle of a web toward a scrap receiver because the fluid nozzle does not have to be aligned alongside the knife roll to function properly. The fluid nozzle can be arranged so that it directs fluid into the area where the strip leaves the knife roll even when that area is in the middle of a web and the middle of the knife roll.

Claim 10 as amended includes a nozzle adapted to direct a stream of fluid into the area where a strip leaves a knife roll and generate a pressure that guides said strip toward a scrap receiver. In contrast, Crouse discloses air slots which are located within the passageway of the scrap receiver (Crouse at col. 2, lines 63-65) which direct the air into and down through the scrap receiver passageway (Crouse at col. 3, lines 18-19; Figure 3). The direction in which fluid is introduced, which is "down through the scrap receiver passageway," is opposite to that used by applicant which leads to the area where scrap material leaves a knife roll. Thus, Crouse does not disclose a nozzle adapted to direct a fluid stream into the area claimed by applicant and does not anticipate amended claim 10 for this reason.

Further, applicant's fluid nozzle as defined in claim 10 is directed to assist the strip in leaving the knife roll and then generate a pressure that guides the strip toward the scrap receiver. In contrast, the air slots of Crouse provide low velocity lubricating air layers between the scrap receiver passageway walls and the strip of scrap to facilitate movement of the strip, once in the receiver, along a path in the passageway. (Crouse at col. 1, lines 35-44). Unlike the air stream in Crouse, the claimed fluid stream of Applicant's apparatus urges the trim strip away from the knife roll and then guides the trim strip before it ever enters the scrap receiver. Lacking disclosure of an air stream that guides the trim strip toward the scrap receiver, Crouse does not anticipate Applicant's claim 10 for this reason as well.

Claim 11 depends directly from claim 10 and is believed to be allowable for the reasons noted with respect to claim 10.

Claim 12 recites a nozzle that reduces any Coanda effects around the side of the nozzle. By way of contrast, the air slots of Crouse are designed to enhance the Coanda effect of the air as

it issues from the slots. (Crouse at col. 3, lines 14-18). Lacking disclosure of a nozzle that reduces Coanda effects around the side of the nozzle, Crouse does not anticipate Applicant's claim 12 for this reason as well as the reasons given regarding its independent claim.

Claim 13 recites a nozzle wherein the bore of the nozzle terminates at a discharge face that is substantially perpendicular to the bore. On the other hand, Figure 4 of Crouse shows that the air slots (Component 40 in Figure 4) are cut longitudinally into the side of a delivery manifold duct (Component 38 in Figure 4). So positioned, the air slots of Crouse are parallel to the bore of the manifold duct. Lacking disclosure of a nozzle having a discharge face substantially perpendicular to the bore of the nozzle, Crouse does not anticipate Applicant's claim 13 for this reason as well as the reasons given regarding its independent claim.

New claims 19 and 20 are dependent on claim 10, which is patentable for the reasons stated above. Claims 19 and 20 include additional limitations not disclosed in the prior art.

New claim 21 is an independent claim which includes limitations not disclosed in the prior art, and is therefore patentable.

It is submitted that claims 10-13 and new claims 19-21 are now in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of such allowance is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant has included with this Response and Amendment, a supplemental information disclosure statement listing one U.S. patent reference.